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a portable information terminal; and
a central system comprising
a request receiving unit receiving a request for position information of the
portable information terminal,
a position information acquiring unit acquiring current position information of the
portable information terminal by sending a command to the portable information terminal to
respond when the portable information terminal is able to receive the command, or by retrieving
position information that is registered beforehand when the portable information terminal is
unable to receive the command,
wherein said portable information terminal comprises
a Global Positioning System receiver,
an automatic responding unit responding to the command requesting current
positioning information of the portable information terminal using the Global Positioning System,
and
a position registering unit automatically registering position information
periodically with the central system, and
wherein a position of a first party holding said portable information terminal may be
obtained, through the central system, by a second party holding another portable information
terminal, and the positions of both the first party and the second party are displayed on the
portable information terminal of the second party.

39. (NEW) The position information management system as set forth in claim 38,
wherein said portable information terminal further comprises a built-in device which detects a
moving direction and a moving speed of said portable information terminal, wherein when the
Global Positioning System becomes unavailable, said portable information terminal
independently detects and displays its current position.

40. (NEW) The position information management system as set forth in claim 38,
wherein a position of a first party holding said portable information terminal may be obtained by
a second party through the central system.

41. (NEW) The position information management system as set forth in claim 38, wherein said portable information terminal transmits position information of a destination to the central system, thereby to automatically download map data of an appropriate scale from the central system on demand, the map data containing the current position of said portable information terminal and a position of the destination, and to display the map data.

42. (NEW) The position information management system as set forth in claim 38, wherein said portable information terminal retains minimum map data of a region in which a holder thereof wants to move, in the form of an IC card.

43. (NEW) The position information management system as set forth in claim 38, wherein said portable information terminal retains map data downloaded from the central system for a certain period of time, and when the map data is needed again, it is searched for from within the map data retained in said portable information terminal and is displayed.

44. (NEW) The position information management system as set forth in claim 40, wherein the second party holds another portable information terminal.

45. (NEW) The position information management system as set forth in claim 40, wherein a movement of the current position of the first party is supervised, and when the first party has not moved from an identical site for a predetermined time period, an alarm is raised upon a judgment that an unusual situation has occurred to the first party.

46. (NEW) The position information management system as set forth in claim 43, wherein said portable information terminal sets a time period for retaining map data of higher use frequency, to be longer than a certain period of time.

47. (NEW) A portable information terminal having a position managed through a central system, comprising:

a Global Positioning System receiver,
an automatic responding unit responding to a command requesting current positioning information of the portable information terminal using the Global Positioning System; and

a position registering unit automatically registering the position information periodically with the central system,

wherein a position of a first party holding said portable information terminal may be obtained, through the central system, by a second party holding another portable information terminal, and the positions of both the first party and the second party are displayed on the portable information terminal of the second party.

48. (NEW) The position information terminal as set forth in claim 47, further comprising a built-in device which detects a moving direction and a moving speed of said portable information terminal, and wherein when the Global Positioning System becomes unavailable, said portable information terminal independently determines and displays its current position.

49. (NEW) The portable information terminal as set forth in claim 47, wherein the position of a first party holding said portable information terminal may be obtained by a second party through the central system.

50. (NEW) The portable information terminal as set forth in claim 47, wherein said portable information terminal transmits position information of a destination to the central system, thereby to automatically download map data of an appropriate scale from the central system on demand, the map data containing the current position of said portable information terminal and a position of the destination, and to display the map data.

51. (NEW) The portable information terminal as set forth in claim 47, wherein said portable information terminal retains minimum map data of a region in which a holder thereof wants to move, in the form of an IC card.

52. (NEW) The portable information terminal as set forth in claim 47, wherein said portable information terminal retains map data downloaded from the central system for a certain period of time, and when the map data is needed again, it is searched for from within the map data retained in said portable information terminal and is displayed.

53. (NEW) The portable information terminal as set forth in claim 47, wherein in the portable information terminal, an antenna for the Global Positioning System is disposed in a cover for an input button portion of said portable information terminal.

54. (NEW) The portable information terminal as set forth in claim 47, wherein an antenna for said Global Positioning System is disposed in a cover for an input button portion of said portable information terminal.

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55. (NEW) The portable information terminal as set forth in claim 47, further comprising a display unit displaying a map which contains the acquired current position of said portable information terminal.

56. (NEW) The portable information terminal as set forth in claim 49, wherein the second party holds another portable information terminal.

57. (NEW) The portable information terminal as set forth in claim 49, wherein a movement of the current position of the first party is supervised, and when the first party has not moved from an identical site for a predetermined time period, an alarm is raised upon a judgment that an unusual situation has occurred to the first party.

58. (NEW) The portable information terminal as set forth in claim 52, wherein said portable information terminal sets a time period for retaining map data of higher use frequency, to be longer than a certain period of time.

59. (NEW) The portable information terminal as set forth in claim 55, wherein the display unit displays a map of an appropriate scale containing a current position of said portable information terminal itself and the current position of the other portable information terminal requesting the current positioning information of the portable information terminal.

60. (NEW) A central system managing position information of a portable information terminal, comprising:

a request receiving unit receiving a request for position information of a portable information terminal; and

a position information acquiring unit acquiring a current position information of the portable information terminal by sending a command to the portable information terminal when the portable information terminal is able to receive the command, or by retrieving position information that is registered beforehand when the portable information terminal is unable to receive the command,

wherein the portable information terminal responds to the command requesting position information of the portable information terminal, and automatically registers position information with the central system, and

wherein a position of a first party holding said portable information terminal may be obtained, through said central system, by a second party holding another portable information terminal, and the positions of both the first party and the second party are displayed on the portable information terminal of the second party.

61. (NEW) A portable information terminal, comprising:

a Global Positioning System receiver;

a position registering unit periodically determining current positioning information;

an automatic responding unit responding to a request to send current positioning information of the portable information terminal using the Global Positioning System; and

a sending unit automatically sending the current positioning information obtained by the Global Positioning System to another portable information terminal sending the request for the current positioning information,

wherein a position of a first party holding said portable information terminal may be obtained by a second party holding the other portable information terminal, and the positions of both the first party and the second party are displayed on the portable information terminal of the second party.

62. (NEW) The portable information terminal as set forth in claim 61, further comprising a display unit displaying a map which contains a destination, on the basis of position information of the destination.